

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 920

By White D

A RESOLUTION to honor the Business Education Partnership Foundation of Rutherford County on the occasion of its thirtieth anniversary.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly is pleased to recognize a worthy organization that leverages private sector expertise and funding to improve public education within its community; and

WHEREAS, the Business Education Partnership Foundation of Rutherford County (BEP) was founded in 1988: "To foster interest in and to promote and support programs in public schools of the City of Murfreesboro and Rutherford County that will prepare students for the business world"; and

WHEREAS, the BEP was formed with help from the Rutherford County Chamber of Commerce and business leaders who expressed the desire to attract technologically advanced businesses to the area; and

WHEREAS, these same leaders also expressed concerns about skill gaps among high school graduates that could hinder economic and workforce development; recognizing the need for greater collaboration between educators and the business community, they established BEP; and

WHEREAS, BEP's programs and initiatives encourage the development of advanced skills in the disciplines of business, health care, and science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) through hands-on, experiential learning and the integration of the material application of the principles of those disciplines in the workforce; and

WHEREAS, the BEP helps equip and inform educators through its Nissan Teacher Minigrant Awards, STEM Factor educator conference, Counselors' Leadership Institute, and Breakthrough for Leaders workshop; and

WHEREAS, the BEP supports the education and development of students through SPARK (Students and Professionals Acquiring Real Knowledge), Summer Business Camp, STEMEx Camp, Camp M.D., and Youth Leadership Rutherford; and

WHEREAS, BEP's summer career exploration camps are provided tuition-free, so that any student who wishes to learn about future careers can do so regardless of family finances; and

WHEREAS, BEP's innovative programs have provided Rutherford County's students with a clear advantage over their peers in other regions; the exceptional educational opportunities provided by BEP enable students to develop the critical thinking and problem solving skills that will foster not only their personal growth, but also the economic growth and success of their community; and

WHEREAS, for thirty years, BEP has contributed significantly to the development of Rutherford County's educated, skilled workforce by introducing students to high potential careers and fostering the development of the foundational skills necessary to pursue those careers; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the Business Education Partnership Foundation of Rutherford County and its business partners on thirty years of providing funding and resources to prepare students for high potential careers and success in the twenty-first century global economy and wish these good people all the best in their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.